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Grievances of village officers, Malabar

* 193 *Q.*—Sri P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN (on behalf of Sri K. P. Gopalan): Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received any report from the Collector of Malabar regarding the meetings held by the village officers of Malabar on 15th June 1956 to demonstrate their grievances; and

(*b*) if so, the action taken to redress their grievances?

The Hon. Sri M. A. MANICKAVELU: (*a*) No. The Government have not received any such report from the Collector.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Sri P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN: May I know whether the Government received any representation from the village officers direct, and, if so, what action has been taken on it?

The Hon. Sri M. A. MANICKAVELU: Various representations have been received from the Village Officers' Associations. In fact, quite a bundle of representations in post cards were received especially from Malabar. Government are considering them.

Sri K. KUNHI MOHAMED SHAFEE: May I know whether the Cabitnet Sub-Committee, which was appointed to go into the question of improving the conditions of village officers has submitted its report by now?

The Hon. Sri M. A. MANICKAVELU: Not yet. The Cabinet Sub-Committee will be meeting finally within a few days.

Sri P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN: Pending the consideration of the larger issue of the status and other matters relating to village officers, will the Government grant school fee concessions to the children of the village officers as in the case of N.G.Os.? 9–10 a.m.

The Hon. Sri M. A. MANICKAVELU: I suppose this also will be one of the subjects for consideration.

Agriculturists' loan applications

* 194 *Q.*—Sri S. C. VIRUPAKSHIAH: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of short-term loan applications from agriculturists pending in Kollegal taluk; and

(*b*) the steps taken to dispose of them expeditiously?

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THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : (*a*) About 380 applications.

(*b*) The Collector of Coimbatore has since appointed a special staff of one Tahsildar and three Revenue Inspectors to attend to the speedy disposal of the loan applications pending in the taluk.

SRI S. C. VIRUPAKSHIAH : Sir, may I know whether the Government will be pleased to make additional allotment since the present allotment is almost exhausted?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : Yes, Sir. I understand that further amounts may be allotted to the district and Kollegal taluk will get its proportionate allotment.

SRI S. C. VIRUPAKSHIAH : Sir, an additional allotment of Rs. 50,000 has been made. Even that has almost run out. May I know whether a further allotment will be made?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : My information is not up to date.

Development of inland waterways

* 195 *Q*.—SRI P. RANGASWAMI REDDIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Central Government have requested the State Government to exploit and utilize the canal transport facilities in this State; and

(*b*) if so, the steps taken by the Government in the matter?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : (*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*b*) The inclusion of the following three schemes for the development of inland waterways in the Second Five-Year Plan has been recommended to the Government of India and their orders are awaited :—

(1) Improvements to North Buckingham Canal—Estimated cost Rs. 20 lakhs.

(2) Connecting Buckingham Canal to Madras Harbour—Estimated cost Rs. 25 lakhs.

(3) Improvements to Vedaranyam Canal—Estimated cost Rs. 6·10 lakhs.

SRI P. RANGASWAMI REDDIAR : Sir, was our Government consulted regarding the proposal for the linking of the Ganges with the Cauvery and further extending the canal transport up to Cochin?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : We have not been consulted officially.